

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NESCO

SUBJECT: DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES,
DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES

1. UNESCO HAS BEEN PREPARING DRAFT CONVENTIONS ON THE
RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDU-
CATION AND SUCH A CONVENTION AMONG THE ARAB STATES AND THE
EUROPEAN STATES BORDERING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN IS NOW IN
FINAL DRAFT AND SCHEDULED TO BE SIGNED AT NICE DECEMBER 15.
(ED-76/CONF.202/4 ANNEX I).

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2. IN A RECENT EXPERTS DISCUSSION IN PARIS IT WAS LEARNED THAT A SIMILAR CONVENTION FOR THE COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN UNESCO'S EUROPEAN REGION, WHICH INCLUDES THE U.S. AND CANADA, WILL BE PREPARED BY THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH DRAFTING TO BEGIN AS SOON AS THE MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION HAS BEEN SIGNED.

3. WHILE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION ARE LAUDATORY, THE PRESENT DRAFT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION INCLUDES CLAUSES WHICH ARE CLEARLY DIFFICULT FOR COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT HAVE A UNITARY EDUCATION SYSTEM. IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. WE BELIEVE THAT CANADA, THE FRG AND THE U.K. WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING THE CONVENTION AS

DRAFTED.

4. ACCORDINGLY WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE FOUR COUNTRIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS DRAFT CONVENTION WITH THE OBJECT OF POSSIBLY FURNISHING TO THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT LANGUAGE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY IT IN THE DRAFTING STAGE AND WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH DECENTRALIZED SYSTEMS TO SIGN IN SOME FASHION.

5. BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY SHORT LEAD TIME WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS (2 OR 3 FROM EACH COUNTRY, REPRESENTING BOTH THE GOVERNMENTAL AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES) MEET IN EITHER LONDON OR BONN FOR THIS PURPOSE. FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW PERIOD FROM NOV. 15-23 WOULD APPEAR TO BE PREFERABLE. WE ENVISAGE CONSULTATIONS LASTING NO MORE THAN ONE DAY.

6. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICE IN HOST GOVERNMENT AND DETERMINE IF SUCH CONSULTATIONS CONSIDERED USEFUL AND SUGGESTED TIME PERIOD ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

7. FOR OTTAWA: IF GOC UNABLE SEND ANYONE TO LONDON OR BONN FOR CONSULTATIONS, SHOULD THEY BE HELD, SUGGEST MEMBER OF CANADIAN EMBASSY BE APPOINTED TO PARTICIPATE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN EITHER OTTAWA OR WASHINGTON BETWEEN U.S. AND CANADIAN EXPERTS AS POSSIBILITY. HABIB

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